



2019 State Proposed Legislative Agenda

Presented to the
Board of County Commissioners
November 7, 2018

Guiding Legislative Agenda Principles

1. Support legislation that grants counties greater flexibility.
2. Support legislation that provides funding to counties.
3. Oppose legislation that removes authority from counties.
4. Oppose legislation that creates unfunded mandates or directly or indirectly shifts costs to counties.



Support Full State Funding of Raise the Age Legislation Implementation

2017 legislation (Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act) raised the juvenile age for prosecution from age 16 to 18. Funding is needed for operational costs.

Anticipated needs include:

- Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Council Programs - victim restitution, restorative justice, court-ordered mediation, community service counseling and vocational skills development
- Community-based residential contracts
- DSS child welfare to handle increase of children entering custody – Major local concern for cost related to out-of-home placements.
- Transportation drivers and additional vans to comply with transition from juvenile detention facilities and adult detention facilities
- Additional Court Services - (ADAs, Legal Assistants, District Court Judges and Deputy Clerks)
- Office of the Juvenile Defender – Additional attorney and contracts administrator



Seek Funding to Increase Access to Magistrates in North Mecklenburg

The need for efficient and safe services to residents in the northern portion of the County has increased.

- 34 magistrates currently provide countywide services
- Statewide average is 1 to 15,000
- Mecklenburg average is 1 to 31,000
- Safer 24/7 service is needed for domestic violence victims
- Collaborative effort with northern towns contributing funds and office space





Seek Funding Parity for State Teacher Support Programs in County Funded PreK Programs

- In FY19, Mecklenburg County allocated **\$8.75 million** to fund approximately **600 new pre-kindergarten slots** in 33 community based childcare centers.
- Funding for teacher support (**licensure, mentoring and evaluation**) is **not** provided to County funded pre-kindergarten programs such as MECK Pre-K with the same standards as NC Pre-K **but is provided to other entities that administer state Pre-K programs.**
- For FY19, costs of the teacher support program are estimated at \$317,000 and annual program evaluation costs are estimated to be as much as \$500,000 for the Mecklenburg County Pre-Kindergarten program.

Advocate to Add the Hepatitis A Vaccine to the Pharmacy Formulary

Mecklenburg County is in the midst of a Hepatitis A outbreak. The first line of defense against the spread of infection is a vaccinated community.

Currently, pharmacies in North Carolina are not approved to provide Hepatitis A vaccine even though local pharmacies are willing to provide the vaccine through onsite pharmacists.



Support Increasing the Age Required to Purchase Tobacco Products from 18 to 21

Between 2011 and 2015, use of electronic cigarettes among North Carolina high school students increased from 2% to 17%.

The National Youth Tobacco Survey reports that in 2014 overall use of tobacco among youth rose, exposing dangerous new trends. Marketing of emerging tobacco products (i.e. electronic cigarettes, hookah, and flavored cigars) have reversed the downward trend of overall tobacco use among youth in North Carolina and is putting millions of youth at risk of lifelong lethal nicotine addiction.

It is estimated that 6,800 children in North Carolina becoming daily smokers each year.



Support Accurate Eviction Judgement Recording

Support legislation that safeguards that tenants can only be identified as having been "evicted" in cases where the judgment against them remains in the Court's records.

Tenants whose landlords provide them opportunity to "pay and stay" prior to a judgment would only be shown as having had eviction actions commenced against them; but would not be erroneously assumed to have been "evicted".

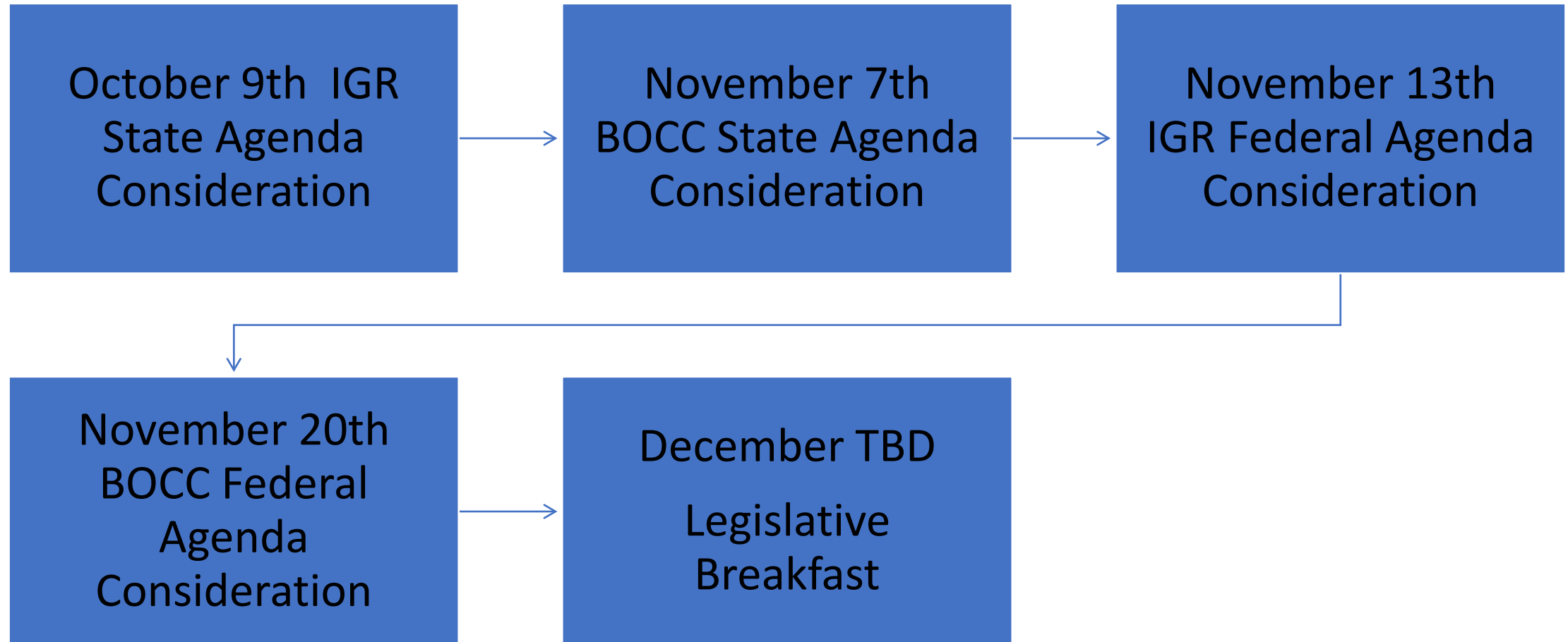


Legislative Session Monitoring

- Health and Human Services
- Economic Development
- Transportation
- Public Safety
- General Government



Legislative Agenda Timeline





Thank you

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